

**WELCOME AND LAUNCH OF THE DISTRICT AIDS
COUNCIL ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP CLLR
TLOTLANANG MOGOTLANE THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR
OF WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY DURING
THE DISTRICT AIDS COUNCILS TRAINING HELD ON
THE 24TH JANUARY 2013 AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL AT
09:00 IN MODIMOLLE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY.**

Programme Director,

Mayors from our locals in the district,

Portfolio Councillors from the district and local municipalities,

Magoshi a rena,

Municipal Managers led by the District Municipal Manager Mr Letsoalo,

Representatives from the Office of the Premier,

Representatives from NAFCOC,

District Executive Manager for Health Mr Moetlo,

District Senior Managers from Sector Departments,

The Leadership of the District Youth Council,

The Leadership of the District Disability Organisation,

The Leadership of the District Traditional Health Council,

Representatives from the District Older Persons Forum,

Representatives from the District Sport Council,

Civil Society Organisations present,

Representatives from Institutions of Higher Learning.

The Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning. Dumelang.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address you during this grand occasion. On behalf of the citizens and political leadership of Waterberg, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to our vibrant District in the Western part of Limpopo Province.

The Waterberg lives and breathes nature. The region is richly endowed with natural assets and resources and is it the principal destination of domestic tourism and the main dispersal point for foreign tourists and investors.

Waterberg is home to an internationally recognized Biosphere Reserve in the heartland of this mountainous region. The Modimolle mountain, rising out on the eastern side of the town, is a sacred site which holds an important place in the history and cultural heritage of the people of the District. . The people of Waterberg welcome you to this region with traditional warmth and friendliness and enjoy your stay for the duration of the training.

Programme Director, the establishment of the District Aids Council (DAC) is long overdue and by launching this structure today we re-affirm the commitment of our government led by our glorious movement, the African National Congress (ANC) to scale-up and intensify the multi-sectoral response to HIV and TB. HIV and TB remain major challenges facing South Africa today and continue to affect the lives of our people especially in our district. In order to combat HIV and TB, a collective and multi-prolonged effort is required.

Waterberg has been under tremendous pressure to launch the District Aids Council (AIDS) by the Provincial government and today we are gathered here to do just that. The Limpopo Provincial AIDS Council Policy Framework clearly outlines the objectives and the role of the District Aids Council (DAC). The two days training to be conducted from today will empower our Aids Council members so that we are able to discharge our responsibilities efficiently.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to outline some of the functions of the DAC which are as follows:

- Advice local government on policy issues related to HIV and TB and recommend appropriate research to inform the needs and impact of provincial responses to the HIV & AIDS epidemic;
- Provide an overall guidance on the implementation of the HIV & TB Provincial Strategic Plan and the District Operational Plan as well as other related plans;
- Mobilise resources for the implementation of the Provincial Strategic plan and strengthen partnership with all stakeholders;
- Coordinate implementation of HIV & TB strategies within the District;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the District and Local AIDS Councils;
- Participate and lead in developing activities and programmes to coincide with important international and national HIV& TB calendar, for example World Aids day and so forth.

Programme Director, let me take this opportunity to issue appointment letters to the following representatives as members of the District Aids Council. Due to time constraint, I will only issue a few of the appointment letters and the rest will be issued later.

I therefore declare the Waterberg District Aids Council officially launched.

I THANK YOU.

